

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-3, 9, and 18 are editorially amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 1-20 are pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claim 12 is allowable.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,221,455 (Yasuda) in view of Japanese Patent Document JP 08-104060 (Harigai). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an optical information recording medium. A recording layer contains a material that has an energy gap ranging from 0.9 eV to 2.0 eV in an amorphous state. By this arrangement, it is possible to achieve a recording medium that exhibits good reproducible reflectance, high transmittance, and the ability to quickly transition between different optical states, thereby permitting high-density recording on the information recording medium. *See, e.g.,* page 15, lines 8-33.

Yasuda is directed to a multi-layer optical disc. However, as the Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action, Yasuda does not teach or suggest that a recording layer material has an energy gap ranging from 0.9 eV to 2.0 eV in an amorphous state.

Harigai does not remedy the deficiencies of Yasuda. Rather than teach a desired range of energy gaps, Harigai suggest that it is satisfactory to have a band gap of 1.0 eV or more, or 1.0 eV or less, if the thickness of the recording layer is reduced. *See* paragraph 9 of Harigai. Thus, Harigai teaches that any range of energy gaps can be used with a recording medium. Accordingly, Harigai does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of an energy gap ranging from 0.9 eV to 2.0 eV in an amorphous state.

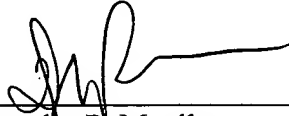
Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-11 and 13-20 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of claim 1, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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